

# **Thomas Telford School**



## **Sixth Form Admission September 2018 Frequently Asked Questions**

September 2017

### **Why should I choose Thomas Telford for my Post 16 education?**

If you are an enthusiastic and dedicated student you should give the Sixth Form at Thomas Telford School some serious consideration. We have everything to help you achieve your goals – a great tradition of academic excellence, wonderful facilities and fantastic extra-curricular opportunities to build leadership, teamwork and interpersonal skills.

### **How do I apply for a place in Thomas Telford School Sixth Form?**

You will need to download and complete an application form from our website [www.ttsonline.net](http://www.ttsonline.net) and return it to the Admissions Office at Thomas Telford School along with your latest school report and attendance figure. We will then contact your current school for a reference. Please note we have separate application forms for Sixth Form, the Performing Arts Academy and the Sports Academy.

As part of the application process you will need to attend our Open Evening. We will write to invite you to this Open Evening once you have returned your application form.

### **Will I have the opportunity to view the School?**

We will be holding an Open Evening. There will be a presentation from the Head and the opportunity to view the School and meet the Head of Sixth Form and Director of Careers.

### **I was unsuccessful in my application to Year 7 is it worth applying to Sixth Form at Thomas Telford?**

Yes, the application to Sixth Form is completely separate and we are even able to take some students from outside the catchment area.

### **What are the Performing Arts and Sports Academies at Thomas Telford School?**

The Academies allow you to study a particular subject area in depth (Performing Arts or Sport) and are worth three A Levels each. You will need to audition for the Performing Arts Academy. You choose an additional A Level making your total commitment four A Levels.

### **What is the minimum entry requirement for studying at Thomas Telford?**

Generally we require you to have achieved at least six grade 5 to 9 at GCSE and at least a grade 6 in the subject that you want to take at A Level. Our Academies require an aptitude in either Performing Arts or Sport. Please view the individual course leaflets on our website as entry requirements for subjects will vary.

### **How do I choose which subjects to study at Sixth Form?**

Ideally it is best to choose subjects that you think that you'll enjoy as well as those that will be useful for your future career. For some careers such as Medicine a particular group of subjects will be essential or at least desirable. Otherwise a useful qualification can be achieved from a wide variety of combinations. For example, an essay subject will give skills which would be complimented by a practical or a mathematical subject. You should also bear in mind the style of learning i.e. whether course work is involved, how many examinations there will be, will there be presentations and trips and will the course be more practical or theoretical.

### **How many subjects will I study?**

Students study four AS Levels at Thomas Telford School during 6.1. The Academies run courses that are worth three A Levels, and students studying these will also take one further AS Level. In some cases students will continue to take four subjects at A Level.

### **Can I take the combination of A Levels that I need?**

We ask for a general idea of the subjects that students are interested in taking at the application stage and then build our option blocks around that. We try to be as flexible as we can be and subjects are often put in more than one option blocks so it is highly likely that you can choose the combination that you need.

### **Do I need to have studied the subject at GCSE to study it at A Level?**

It will depend on the subject. Some subjects like Psychology are often not available at GCSE and so there is no expectation that you have studied it previously.

### **Recent changes to A Levels**

A Level courses have changed to be examined at the end of the two year course.

The 'AS' levels (taken in 6.1) will now be a separate qualification and no longer count towards the A Level grade. It will still be a one-year course with exams at the end of the year. Assessment will mostly be through exams although in some cases there may be a limited amount of coursework. A Levels will be linear rather than modular, which means exams will only take place at the end of the two year course, rather than assessment after each module. There may be a limited amount of coursework.

Most of our A Levels are **AGCE** (Advanced General Certificate of Education) and are the more 'traditional' subjects. We do offer some Applied A Levels which are more vocational. These enable you to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in the vocational area you are studying, preparing you for both the world of work and progression into higher education. These are more internally assessed with more coursework and fewer exams.

**BTECs** are a post-16 Level 3 course roughly equivalent to A Levels. It is a more vocational route for those who prefer a portfolio based course. Some students benefit greatly from opting for vocational courses as this raises their level of achievement. If you enjoy the course and are confident that it matches your interest and suits your learning style there is every chance that you will excel!

### **What careers support is there at Thomas Telford School?**

We provide exceptional careers advice to all students. The majority of our students go to University after Sixth Form and they are given excellent guidance and advice through the application process. We have an enviable reputation with employers and are therefore also extremely successful in

supporting those students who prefer to enter employment or apprenticeships when they leave Thomas Telford School.

**What provision do we have for Oxbridge preparation?**

We are very proud of our long record of students going to Oxbridge. Our Director of Careers is very experienced and will give potential Oxbridge students full support in their application.

**How will I be supported if I have any Additional or Special Educational Needs?**

Any exam concessions you have already received should continue. Teaching staff will be informed about any Special Needs to ensure they support your studies in the most appropriate way. Please ensure you put this information on the application form.

**When do I find out if I have a place?**

We will notify students of the outcome of their application on an ongoing basis the first round of offers will be made in January. You will be invited into School to agree your subject choices. If you are unsuccessful at this stage you will be placed on our waiting list in case a suitable place becomes available later.

**Will I get the chance to visit the School again before I start?**

You will be invited in to School to discuss your options with subject staff and an Induction Day will be held in July 2018.

**What happens when I get my GCSE results?**

You will be invited into School on GCSE results day. It is important that you are available to come into the School so that you can confirm your courses with the Head of Sixth Form. You will need to advise the School as soon as possible if you are unable to attend on this date as you will need to make arrangements to contact the School via email or telephone instead.